



International Association of Fire Chiefs

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March 5, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation, PS Docket No. 07-114, WP Docket No. 07-100, ET Docket No. 18-295, GN Docket No. 17-183, ET Docket No. 19-138, PS Docket No. 20-291 and PS Docket No. 09-14

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Wednesday, March 3, 2021 Ryan Woodward (myself), Government Relations Manager for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC); Ken LaSala, Director of Government Relations and Policy for the IAFC and Christopher Lombard, Deputy Chief of the Seattle Fire Department and Acting Chairman of the IAFC's Communications Committee met with Commissioner Nathan Simington; Carolyn T. Roddy, Commissioner Simington's Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor for Wireline Issues; Erin Boone, Commissioner Simington's Wireless Advisor; Adam Cassady Commissioner Simington's Media Advisor and Michael Sweeney, Commissioner Simington's Confidential Assistant to discuss the above-referenced proceedings and FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

During this meeting, the IAFC discussed its interest in engaging with Commissioner Simington as he forms initiatives to dialogue with public safety. The IAFC also explained its positions on proceedings that are before the commission that heavily impact public safety, including 4.9 GHz, 5.9 GHz and 6 GHz spectrum, 911 location accuracy and 911 fee diversion. The IAFC also expressed its desire that more resources be dedicated to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau and that the Bureau take more actions to apprehend bad actors who purposely interfere with public safety communications. The IAFC also discussed potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities of public safety transmissions.

The IAFC explained that public safety utilizes the 4.9 GHz band to host broadband intranet networks, video camera networks, bomb disposal robot operations, and airborne public safety video operations. The IAFC expressed its opposition to the Commission's Sixth Report and Order (R&O) and Seventh Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) which would open the 4.9 GHz spectrum to commercial users and turn management of the 4.9 GHz band over to the

States.¹ The IAFC reiterated a number of the positions expressed in its comments and reply comments on this proceeding.²³ The IAFC also requested that the Commission do a better job of accounting for the users of 4.9 GHz spectrum before making the determination that it is underutilized.

The IAFC expressed concern with opening 6 GHz spectrum to unlicensed users and the interference it can produce. Such interference can disrupt critical links to/from 911 centers, and essential connections among public safety radio system base sites and control facilities. This interference could also negatively impact backhaul for public safety communications systems and radio communications in rural areas of the United States. The IAFC expressed opposition to the commission potentially expanding 6 GHz usage to client-to-client unlicensed transmissions.⁴ The concerns expressed were similar to those raised in comments on the related public notice that the IAFC filed with the Utilities Technology Council and other organizations.⁵

The IAFC expressed its opposition to the FCC's First R&O, FNPRM and Order of Proposed Modification that repurposes 45 megahertz of the 5.850-5.925 GHz band (the 5.9 GHz band) to allow for the expansion of unlicensed mid-band spectrum operations, while continuing to dedicate 30 megahertz of spectrum for vital intelligent transportation system (ITS) operations.⁶ ITS platforms like vehicle communication technologies, commonly known as vehicle-to-everything communications (V2X) operate on 5.9 GHz and are important to public safety because they have significant potential to reduce the frequency and severity of unimpaired motor vehicle crashes. The concerns IAFC expressed regarding this proceeding are similar to those in the reply comments the IAFC filed regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) related to this R&O.⁷

The IAFC expressed its opposition the Petitions for Waiver recently filed by Verizon, T-Mobile USA Inc. and AT&T Services Inc. regarding the Commission's 9-11 location accuracy requirements. These petitions request an eighteen-month waiver to Section 9.10(i)(2)(ii)(C) of

¹Amendment to Part 90 of the Commission's Rules, WP Docket No. 07-100, Sixth R&O and Seventh FNPRM, released October 2, 2020

² International Association of Fire Chiefs Comments in response to the Seventh FNPRM, WP Docket No. 07-100, submitted January 12, 2021

³ International Association of Fire Chiefs Reply Comments in response to the Seventh FNPRM, WP Docket No. 07-100, submitted February 12, 2021

⁴ Public Notice from The Office of Engineering & Technology Seeks Additional Information Regarding Client-to-Client Device Communications in the 6 GHz Band, ET Docket No. 18-295 and GN Docket No. 17-183, released January 11, 2021

⁵ Utilities Technology Council, Edison Electric Institute, American Public Power Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Water Works Association, APCO International and International Association of Fire Chiefs Comments in response to a Public Notice from The Office of Engineering & Technology Seeks Additional Information Regarding Client-to-Client Device Communications in the 6 GHz Band, ET Docket No. 18-295 and GN Docket No. 17-183, submitted February 22, 2021

⁶Use of the 5.850-5.925 GHz Band, ET Docket No. 19-138, First R&O FNPRM and Order of Proposed Modification, released November 20, 2020

⁷ International Association of Fire Chiefs Reply Comments in response to the NPRM, ET Docket No. 19-138, submitted April 27, 2020

the Commission's rules and its corresponding certification requirements.^{8 9 10} The IAFC urged the FCC to deny the Petitions for Waiver and reiterated the concerns that it along with other public safety organizations submitted opposing the Petition for Reconsideration submitted by CTIA regarding this proceeding.¹¹

Finally, the IAFC expressed concern with the FCC's recent NPRM to set regulations to address 911 fee diversion.¹² The IAFC is concerned that this proposed rule may ignore the nuanced 911-related needs of localities throughout the country and may punish local governments for legitimate use of 911 fees that are not addressed in this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ryan Woodward

Ryan Woodward
Government Relations Manager
International Association of Fire Chiefs

⁸ Verizon Petition for Waiver, PS Docket No. 07-114, submitted September 12, 2021.

⁹ T-Mobil USA Inc. Petition for Waiver, PS Docket No. 07-114, submitted September 12, 2021.

¹⁰ AT&T Services Inc. Petition for Waiver, PS Docket No. 07-114, submitted September 12, 2021.

¹¹ The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Opposition to CTIA Petition for Reconsideration, PS Docket No. 07-114, submitted November 3, 2020.

¹² 911 Fee Diversion, New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, PS Docket No. 20-291 and PS Docket No. 09-14, NPRM, released February 17, 2021